

PRESS RELEASE

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE



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FOURTH QUARTER MILK PRODUCTION

WEST VIRGINIA -- **Milk production** in West Virginia totaled 49 million pounds during the October - December quarter of 2005. This was up 1 million pounds from the same quarter last year and from the July - September 2005 quarter. The number of dairy cows averaged 13,000 head, unchanged from the previous quarter and the same quarter last year.

UNITED STATES -- Milk production in the U.S. during the October - December quarter totaled 43.6 billion pounds, up 3.9 percent from the October - December quarter last year. The average number of milk cows in the U.S. during the quarter was 9.05 million head, 31,000 head more than the same period last year.